

# Community Facilities & Quality of Life



Above: Miller's Pond Recreation Center.

### Introduction

Miller's Pond is a unique asset that serves as a focal point and a source of pride for the United Southwest Communities. Home to a variety of community programs, athletic facilities and a picturesque pond, it offers amenities for all segments of the population.

The community is interested in involving more residents in area issues and activities, such as parkland acquisition, community programs for people of all ages, public health and wellness, code compliance monitoring and crime prevention.

The Community Facilities & Quality of Life chapter focuses on community facilities, such as parks and community centers. Issues related to safety, community involvement and appearance, education and outreach also are included in the chapter.

*"If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people."*

- Chinese Proverb

# United Southwest Communities Plan



*Future parkland in Hillside Acres*

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Parks and Recreation, SA Parks Foundation, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Friends of San Antonio Parks, Bexar County Infrastructure Services

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Parks and Recreation, SA Parks Foundation, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Friends of San Antonio Parks

**Funding Sources:** COSA Parks & Recreation Bonds, CDBG



*Gateway Terrace Park*

## Goal 6 - Parkland and Recreational Facilities

Create additional parkland by completing park projects and identifying locations for additional recreational facilities.

### Objective 6.1: Parkland Acquisition

Develop additional lands for public parks.

#### Action Steps:

**6.1.1** Identify locations for additional parkland to meet needs of growing area and to protect wildlife habitat.

- *Potential areas may include linear parks along Indian and Medio Creeks, CPS easements and the Medina River.*
- *Enforce parkland dedication requirements of Unified Development Code for new residential subdivisions.*

**6.1.2** Advance Gateway Terrace Park project to development phase.

- *Land acquisition completed September 30, 2004.*



*Faded sign marking entrance to Gateway Terrace Park*

## Community Facilities & Quality of Life

### Objective 6.2: Pearsall Park

Complete Pearsall Park in accordance with the Park's master plan.

#### Action Steps:

- 6.2.1** Monitor progress of Pearsall Park improvements to ensure that the park is completed in accordance with the Pearsall Park Schematic Design Report, Conceptual Master Plan & Phase One Recommendations, June 2000.
- *Identify appropriate City of San Antonio Department to help fund completion of the park.*
  - *Work with the City to complete grant proposals for Pearsall Park.*
  - *Apply grant funds to project and resubmit for another grant annually as needed to complete the project.*



Pearsall Park

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Parks and Recreation, San Antonio Parks Foundation, Friends of San Antonio Parks, Texas Parks & Wildlife, City Council office

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

### Objective 6.3: Lackland Railroad Spur

Complete conversion of former railroad spur to a hike/bike and nature trail for the entire 3.1 mile length

#### Action Steps:

- 6.3.1** Advocate to complete the Rail to Trail project.
- *Identify appropriate City of San Antonio Department to help fund completion of the park.*
  - *Work with the City to complete grant proposals.*
  - *Apply grant funds to project and resubmit for another grant annually as needed to complete the project.*

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Parks and Recreation, San Antonio Parks Foundation, Friends of San Antonio Parks, Texas Parks & Wildlife, City Council office, Rails to Trails Conservancy, TxDOT enhancement program

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

# United Southwest Communities Plan



*Sport Courts at Millers Pond Park*

## **6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.4.3 and 6.4.4**

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Mid (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Parks and Recreation, COSA Neighborhood Action Department, Community Initiatives Dept., property owners, Bexar County Infrastructure Services Dept.

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer



*Medina Base Road Park*

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Mid (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partner:** COSA Neighborhood Action Department

**Partnerships:** TIF Scrub Team, Neighborhood Associations, City Council Office, Bexar County Housing & Human Services Department—TIF Unit

**Funding Sources:** Self financed through TIF mechanism

## **Objective 6.4: Recreation Facilities**

Create additional recreation facilities.

### **Action Steps:**

**6.4.1** Identify possible locations for a public swimming pool for the plan area.

- *Consider location of former swimming pool near Loop 410 and Medina Base Road.*

**6.4.2** Seek a family entertainment area with activities such as miniature golf and bowling.

**6.4.3** Promote community centers with state of the art sports centers.

**6.4.4** Create a community garden at the Hillside Acres park property.

*Example of a community garden in Urbana, IL*



*Future community garden location in Hillside Acres*



**6.4.4** Prioritize swimming pool and other recreation facilities in review of TIRZ projects in the plan area.



# Community Facilities & Quality of Life

## Goal 7 - Public Facilities and Community Programs

Establish new community programs and public facilities.

### Objective 7.1: Post Office

Establish a new post office.

#### Action Steps:

- 7.1.1** Request a larger and more customer friendly post office to serve the 78227, 78242 and 78252 zip codes.
- *Consider locating in the proposed commercial development at the southwest corner of Loop 410 and Old Pearsall Road.*



Post Office in Austin, TX

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Mid (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** US Postal Service, Koontz McCombs (property owner)

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

### Objective 7.2: Community Programs

Establish community programs for people of all ages.

#### Action Steps:

- 7.2.1** Establish a senior citizens center where activities can be enjoyed (exercise, bingo, crafts, etc.).
- *Study the Bob Ross Senior Resource Center that is under development in District 8.*



Miller's Pond

**Timeline:** Mid (3 to 5 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Parks and Recreation, COSA Community Initiatives, Alamo Council on Aging, Tx Dept. of Health and Human Services, Metro Health, Bexar County Housing & Human Services Department

**Funding Sources:** CDBG, Federal Administration on Aging grants, public and private funds

# United Southwest Communities Plan

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Library Dept., Dept of Community Initiatives, Metro Health, community youth organizations

**Funding Sources:** Minimal in planning stages; grant funding possible

- 7.2.2** Investigate the possibility of using existing meeting rooms at the Johnston and Cortez Branch Libraries to expand children's programs and to establish programming for seniors.



*Johnston Branch Library*

**Timeline:** Mid (3 to 5 years) to Long (6+ years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** Alamo Area Big Brothers—Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Antonio, COSA Community Initiatives, Parks and Recreation, Metro Health, YMCA

**Funding Sources:** grants and public

- 7.2.3** Form a boys & girl club program with counseling opportunities at City Parks & Recreation facilities.
- *For information on Project Worth see 8.1.2*
  - *These facilities may also be able to support periodic visits from the Metro Health mobile immunization team to provide child and adult immunizations.*



*YMCA Youth Leadership Program at O.P. Schnabel Park in Northwest San Antonio*

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Mid (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partner:** COSA Neighborhood Action Department—TIF Unit

**Partnerships:** TIF Scrub Team members, Neighborhood Associations, City Council Office, Bexar County Housing & Human Services Department—TIF Unit

**Funding Sources:** Self financed through TIF mechanism

- 7.2.4** Prioritize youth activities and a senior activity center in reviews of TIRZ projects in the plan area.

## Community Facilities & Quality of Life

### Goal 8 - Public Health and Wellness

Promote programs for a healthy community and environment.

#### Objective 8.1: Healthy Living

Increase community awareness of health issues.

##### Action Steps:

**8.1.1** Establish a 5K run in the plan area to promote better health in the community.

- *Consider coordinating this event with other community events, such as Fiesta, the Fourth of July parade, National Night Out or Blue Santa.*

**8.1.2** Increase the presence of Project Worth in the area.

- *Project Worth currently schedules activities at Miller's Pond Recreation Center.*
- *Club Worth is a service learning club offered at Shepard Middle School.*

##### Project Worth

*Project Worth is a collaborative effort of seven City departments to help youth make healthy choices and to postpone pregnancy. Informational courses for teens and adults are available. For information on classes, call 645-6696. Also a confidential clinic is available for teens. The clinic is open on Wednesdays and is located at 5102 Old Pearsall Road. For an appointment call 207-8850.*

**8.1.3** Create a targeted immunization effort toward pre-school age children of the community, such as through the mobile immunization team.

- *Residents must be willing to bring their children to immunization sites.*

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partners:** COSA Parks & Recreation, COSA Public Works—Right of Way Management, City Council member, Fit City initiative

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/volunteer

**Timeline:** Short (On-going)

**Lead Partner:** Metro Health—Project Worth

**Partnerships:** Neighborhood Associations, Parents, Educators

**Funding Sources:** COSA General Fund



*Project Worth party at Miller's Pond*

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Metro Health—Immunizations Division and WIC Division

**Partners:** Vaccine for Children (VFC) providers, Centro del Barrio

**Funding Sources:** Medicaid, CHIP, Tx Dept. of Health

# United Southwest Communities Plan

## Objective 8.2: Environment

Ensure the community has a safe and clean environment.

### 8.2.1, 8.2.2 and 8.2.3:

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Metro Health

**Partnerships:** COSA Environmental Services, Neighborhood Action, Texas Department of Health

**Funding Sources:** COSA General Fund, Texas Dept. of Health



Old tires near Old Pearsall and Medina Base Road. Tires are breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

### 8.2.1 Increase surveillance for lead exposure.

- *Home assessments for lead exposure are generated when children are found to have blood lead levels greater than 20 micrograms per deciliter. Residents with at risk children should have their children tested during their next physical examination. Blood lead levels above 10 micrograms per deciliter are reported to the Texas Department of State Health Services and then referred to Metro Health for follow up home visits.*

### 8.2.2 Conduct community outreach to educate the residents about the availability of environmental monitoring by Metro Health.

- *The vector control division monitors residential areas for mosquito and fly breeding and rodent harborage.*
- *The environmental health division monitors and inspects public swimming pools and mobile home parks.*
- *The food sanitation division inspects and licenses food establishments and food vendors.*
- *The custodial care division inspects day care centers.*

### 8.2.3 Increase control and surveillance of mosquitoes in order to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus.

- *Include industrial properties and salvage facilities in surveillance*



## Community Facilities & Quality of Life

### 8.2.4 Continue taking proactive steps to prevent illegal dumping.

- *Dial-a-trailer program.*
- *Adopt-a-spot program of public areas.*
- *Installation of no dumping signs.*
- *Fence off vacant properties to limit access.*
- *Promote free disposal days.*
- *Promote brush collection days.*

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Code Compliance, Environmental Services, Metro Health, CAT Office, Keep San Antonio Beautiful

**Funding Sources:** Volunteer, COSA General Fund

### Objective 8.3: Animal Welfare

Improve animal welfare in the community.

#### Action Steps:

#### 8.3.1 Monitor, and address as necessary, stray animals and the incidence of animal bites.

##### Animal Resource Center

*The Animal Resource Center is a grant-funded pilot project bringing spay/neuter and various veterinary services to an underserved portion of the San Antonio metro area. A joint project of the San Antonio Metro Health District, the Animal Defense League, the Veterinary Medical Association of Bexar County, and the Humane Society - SPCA of Bexar County, the center opened in 1997. For information call 210-351-7729.*

**Timeline:** Short (On-going)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** Metro Health, Texas Department of Health

**Funding Sources:** COSA General Fund, Texas Dept. of Health



Animals available for adoption can be viewed at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/health/Animal/Adoption/adoption.asp>

#### 8.3.1 Investigate the relocation status of the City's Animal Care Facility to the Van De Walle site.

- *The Animal Care Facility is currently located in Brackenridge Park at 210 Tuleta Drive. A 2003 Bond project provides \$12,100,000 for an enlarged 42,000 square foot facility over 8 acres.*

**Timeline:** Short (1 to 2 years) to Mid (3 to 5 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** Metro Health—Animal Care Division

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

# United Southwest Communities Plan

## Goal 9 - Quality of Life

Improve the quality of life and safety of the United Southwest Communities.

**Timeline:** Short (1 or 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Code Compliance, Public Works, CPS, SAWS, VIA, CAT Officer

**Funding Sources:** Volunteer, COSA General Fund, VIA



*Abandoned house in Hillside Acres*

### Objective 9.1: Code Compliance

Increase code compliance efforts throughout the community.

#### Action Steps:

**9.1.1** Request better periodic upkeep of vacant lots and public property including:

- *CPS easements under high power lines and CPS gas easements*
- *SAWS easements*
- *VIA Stops*

**Timeline:** Mid (3 to 5 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Public Works—Parking Division, Asset Management, City Council Office

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** City Attorney's Office, COSA Code Compliance, COSA Development Services—Signs, City Council Office, Municipal Court

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**9.1.2** Study the establishment of a safe, guarded area for oversize trucks so that they do not park in residential areas.

- *Investigate what Laredo and/or Webb County are doing to provide oversize truck parking in different locations throughout the community.*

**9.1.3** Work with the City officials to amend City Codes for misdemeanors and determine if fines can be increased for dumping and sign violations and if state codes would need to be amended.

- *Determine if the phone number on the illegal sign can be used to locate the person or entity to be fined.*

## Community Facilities & Quality of Life

**9.1.4** Remove fences that block rear service alleys so that telephone and cable service trucks can access utilities and to facilitate movement for garbage service.

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Code Compliance, Asset Management, Public Works, Environmental Services

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**9.1.5** Continue to coordinate graffiti clean up among neighborhood associations and SAPD SAFFE Unit, using both neighborhood groups and probationers. Use graffiti abatement surveillance vehicle to try to catch offenders.

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** SAPD SAFFE unit, Probation Officers, Neighborhood Associations, COSA Environmental Services/Keep San Antonio Beautiful—Graffiti Wipe Out

**Funding Sources:** COSA General Fund; Volunteer

**9.1.6** Monitor and enforce food vendors in the area, including ice cream trucks.

**Timeline:** Immediate

**Lead Partner:** COSA Code Compliance

**Partnerships:** Neighborhood Associations, Council Action Team officer

**Funding Sources:** COSA General Fund

**9.1.7** Conduct weekend patrols of the Old Pearsall Road corridor to enforce the peddler ordinance.

**Timeline:** Immediate

**Lead Partner:** COSA Code Compliance

**Partnerships:** Neighborhood Associations, Council Action Team officer

**Funding Sources:** COSA General Fund

# United Southwest Communities Plan

**Timeline:** Immediate

**Lead Partner:** COSA Code Compliance

**Partnerships:** COSA Public Works, Asset Management

**Funding Sources:** COSA General Fund

**9.1.8** Increase maintenance of vacant City owned property to have grass cut three times per year.

**Timeline:** Immediate

**Lead Partner:** COSA Code Compliance

**Partnerships:** COSA Environmental Services—Solid Waste Division

**Funding Sources:** COSA General Fund

**9.1.9** Take a zero tolerance approach (no warnings) to out of cycle trash and brush pile violations.



*Front yard parking is a common code violation.*

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** COSA Code Compliance, Council Action Team Officer

**Funding Sources:** Volunteer/Minimal to request; CDBG, COSA General Fund to implement

**9.1.10** Request increased code enforcement hours and use of most experienced staff.

- *Request to have Code Compliance staff work days and nights seven days a week in staggered shifts.*
- *Request converting temporary Code Compliance Officers to permanent status for CDBG eligible areas.*

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partners:** Implementation Team

**Proposed Partnerships:** SAPD-SAFFE Unit, Bexar County Sheriff

**Potential Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

## Objective 9.2: Community Safety

Improve safety by decreasing crime through community awareness and visible patrol activities.

**9.2.1** Consider implementing more neighborhood watch programs and cellular on patrol programs.



## Community Facilities & Quality of Life

### **San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE)**

*SAFFE incorporates the principles of community policing by using officers who focus on identifying, evaluating and resolving community crime problems with the cooperation and participation of community residents. SAFFE officers work with neighborhood residents and district patrol officers assigned to that area. Typical services include referrals to City and other agencies, participation with schools and area youth programs, work to combat graffiti, and keep neighborhoods livable, safe and crime free. The West Service Area SAFFE Unit can be reached at 207-7421*

### **Cellular on Patrol (COP)**

*COP is a partnership program with SAPD, the City of San Antonio and SBC Mobile Systems. The purpose of COP is to prepare residents to be the 'eyes and ears' of the police and to promote closer cooperation between residents and the City. To start or participate in a COP Program in your neighborhood you must complete 8 hours of classroom training. After enough residents in an area have been trained, a COP patrol can be established for the neighborhood. To enroll in a COP training course call the West Patrol substation at 207-6083 or visit the SAPD website for COP training schedules. COP applications may either be picked up at the substation or downloaded from the SAPD website: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapd/forms.asp>*

### **Neighborhood Watch and Good Neighbor Program**

*Crime prevention specialists conduct three meetings with a group of neighbors on a particular block to teach home security, auto theft prevention and personal safety. If 50% of the neighbors participate in these meetings, the block qualifies for a Good Neighbor Program. Once the program is completed the neighborhood can purchase and install Good Neighbor or Neighborhood Watch signs.*



COP Sign



Good Neighbor Sign

# United Southwest Communities Plan

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Lead Partner:** SAPD—Crime Unit

**Partnerships:** Neighborhood Associations

**Funding Sources:** Minimal

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** SAPD SAFFE, DPS

**Funding Sources:** Minimal/Volunteer

**9.2.2** Assess the call load demand and crime patterns created by new housing in the community for police resource allocations or reallocations.

**9.2.3** Educate the public on the availability of internet DPS Sex Offender Website which would identify registered sex offenders residing in the neighborhoods.

- <http://records.txdps.state.tx.us/soSearch>

Searching the Sex Offender Database - TX DPS Records Database - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of San Antonio

FILE Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://records.txdps.state.tx.us/soSearch/soSearch.cfm>

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
CRIME RECORDS SERVICE

SEARCHING THE SEX OFFENDER DATABASE  
ENTER SEARCH CRITERIA

**NOTICE**

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 42, SUBCHAPTER A AND ARTICLE 42.0451 OF THE TEXAS CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, THE CRIME RECORDS SERVICE OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IS FURNISHING ADDITIONAL PUBLIC NOTICE, IN THE FORM OF A POST CARD, FOR CERTAIN SEX OFFENDERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO THE [FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#) PAGE SECTION.

**NAME SEARCH & LOCATION**

OFFENDER

Last Name:

First Name:

Middle Name:

DATE OF BIRTH

mm/dd/yyyy

Sex:

Race:

LOCATION

Zip Code:

City:

**SEARCH BY MAP**

If you wish to search for sex offenders in a geographical area, you may use the mapping application.

*The Sex Offender database is a free service provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety.*

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Lead Partner:** SAPD

**Partnerships:** Neighborhood Associations, Fire Department

**Funding Sources:** Minimal cost

**9.2.4** Increase police patrol activities in the areas affected by the discharge of firearms and fireworks. Educate the public on the legality and dangers of discharging firearms and fireworks inside the City Limits.

## Community Facilities & Quality of Life

### 9.2.5 Request to SAPD to establish a substation at Loop 410 and Old Pearsall Road.

- *The West Police Substation at 7000 Culebra Road was recently expanded, the Police Department is not yet considering new substations for this service area.*

**Timeline:** Short (1 – 2 years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team

**Partnerships:** SAPD, Koontz-McCombs, City Council Office

**Funding Sources:** COSA Capital Improvement Program; Bond Program

### 9.2.6 Create additional lighting in the neighborhoods.

- *Consider using TIRZ funds to create additional lighting.*
- *Initiate a porch light campaign.*

**Timeline:** Mid (3 to 5 years) to Long (6 + years)

**Lead Partner:** Implementation Team with the Neig

**Partners:** Neighborhood Action Department—TIF Unit  
TIF Scrub Team, TIRZ developers, City Council office

**Funding Sources:** Area businesses , Vendors, CoSA

## United Southwest Communities Plan

*This page intentionally left blank.*